

## ***Fight The Bite***

Mississippi State Department Of Health urges all Mississippians to avoid mosquito bites whenever possible. The risk of a healthy person's getting WNV from a mosquito bite is "very low," but all people still should protect themselves. People older than 50 years of age have the highest risk of severe disease.

Mississippi likely will report more human cases. The number of cases will reflect how well people protect themselves and how well communities protect their citizens with effective mosquito control programs.

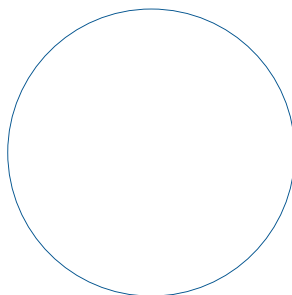
*Protect yourself. . . your home. . . & community*



**MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

*Public Health — The First Line Of Defense*

[www.msdh.state.ms.us](http://www.msdh.state.ms.us)



### ***Protect Yourself. . .***

- WNV can be transmitted only through the bite of an infected mosquito.
- **Avoid mosquitoes** whenever possible. Stay indoors or take personal protective measures, especially at dawn and dusk.
- **Use mosquito repellent** with DEET.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or DEET since mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing.
- Wear long-sleeved, long-legged clothing with socks and shoes whenever possible outdoors.



### ***Protect Your Home. . .***

- **Reduce the source** – the most effective and economical method toward long-term mosquito
- Empty plants and containers of stagnant water.
- Properly dispose of used tires.
- Clean rain gutters, bird baths, and swimming pools.
- Eliminate pools of standing, stagnant water, especially with organic debris.
- Repair damaged or torn window and door screens.
- Remove outdoor pet food and water dishes that are not being used. Flush livestock water troughs twice a week.
- Close garbage can lids. Be sure water does not collect in the bottom of garbage cans.
- Check around construction sites or do-it yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.

### ***. . . And Your Community***

- ✓ Call your local health department to report all species of dead birds.
- ✓ Find **Health Info** and county numbers under Health Department in the BellSouth White Pages.
- ✓ Submit blue jays and crows only. Wearing gloves the bird. Keep the bird cool (under refrigeration) it to the local health department.
- ✓ Learn what your local government is doing to control mosquitoes. Ask how you can help.
- ✓ **Remind or help** neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their property.

